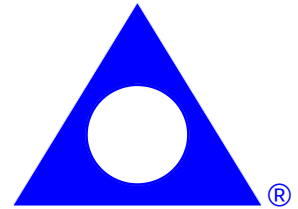


Al-Anon Family Groups



Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

January 2021

Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire
57B Great Suffolk St
London SE1 0BB
Office: 020 7593 2070

INFORMATION LETTER No: 75

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES: THIS LETTER GIVES MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK YOUR TRUSTED SERVANTS ON THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD DO ON THEIR BEHALF, SO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT IN FULL TO YOUR GROUPS.

Dear Members,

I would like to update you with what happened at the most recent General Service Board (GSB) meeting held virtually on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th January 2021. All Trustees were in attendance. As there was no grading for Trustees in 2020 there were no new Trustees to be welcomed to the GSB.

This letter and other information will be circulated directly to the Area Delegates and to members who have signed up for the free GSO eNewsletter. Simply visit the Al-Anon website www.al-anonuk.org.uk and sign up to the GSO eNewsletter via the members' area.

Reports. Interim Reports from the Standing Committee Chairmen (Editorial, Conference, GSB Nominating Committee, PI and TEAM Events Committee), Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Regional Trustees were received discussed and approved.

Finances. The Board received the Treasurer's Interim Report and reviewed management accounts for the third quarter of the 2020-21 financial year. She reported that members continue to respond very positively to the Treasurer's Newsletters circulated to the membership. Gift Aid donations are increasing and the donations page on the website will be updated so members are aware of the need to fill in a Gift Aid Donation form when they first donate. The Board was very gratified to see that the level of donations are covering our costs and we have not needed to use our financial reserves.

Public Information (PI). The Chairman of the PI Committee updated the Board on the public launch of the 2021 campaign, #TheHiddenEffects – of alcoholism on family and friends. The members are requested to use the media release and the resources available on the website to circulate to the media. More shares are required for the campaign over the coming year which will be used on all of our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). Please send your share using the templates on the website to pi@al-anonuk.org.uk.

Eire. The Regional Trustee updated the Board on the progress of the legal situation in Eire. A newsletter will be circulated to members in Eire when the company, Al-Anon Family Groups Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), is registered as a charity. This will set out the information explaining the legal position of Al-Anon in Eire and the reasons for setting up the company and then registering for charitable status.

Conference. Although Conference was cancelled in 2020, information in lieu of Conference was distributed to all Delegates, via the intranet, requesting that they use this when reporting to Areas. Conference 2021 will be held over the weekend of Friday 10th to Sunday 12th September 2021. The theme is "Evolving through change". The equalised fee for 2021 was set at £436. A contingency plan will also be in place if, due to the pandemic and/or government regulations, a face to face Conference cannot be held. More information will be sent to all Delegates in due course.

Al-Anon • Alateen

Family Groups Ltd.

Registered Charity

Co. Reg. No. 984912

Place of Registration – England

VAT No. 237 4145 69

Helpline: 0800 0086 811 (10am-10pm)

enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk

www.al-anonuk.org.uk



@AlAnonFamilyGroupsUK



@AlAnonUKandEire

GSB. Due to the cancellation of the grading process in 2020 the Board requested some Trustees remain in post until grading of the applications for vacancies can resume.

The following Trustees were appointed to the Board for a further year:

Angela L Treasurer and Pete C Chairman, PI Committee.

The following Trustees were co-opted to the Board:

Becky D as Trustee at Large with responsibility for England South & East for a further one-year term.
Miriam MacG as Trustee at Large with responsibility for Eire for a one-year term.

Meetings. Some Groups returning to face to face meetings are limited on numbers allowed in the venue due to restrictions in place. In accordance with Tradition Five our primary purpose is to help the families of alcoholics and this means we cannot refuse entry to a new member. Please refer to the Important Considerations document on the website to set out a plan for the attendance of newcomers.

Helpline. As a result of the pandemic calls to the Helpline have increased. GSO needs more volunteers for the Helpline and eResponders to answer distress emails. For further information email enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk.

Service Roles. New members are needed to fill vacancies on Standing Committees. The Finance Sub Group of the Executive Committee is also looking for new members. For further information email enquires@al-anonuk.org.uk.

Guidelines. New Guidelines approved by the Board were UKG23 *Thought and Task Forces* and UKG24 *Social Media & Digital Technology*. These will be available to download from the members' area of the website.

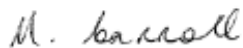
IAGSM. The IAGSM for 2020 was to have been held in London in October but was cancelled due to the pandemic. Although the meeting was held via Zoom it has been decided that the October 2022 meeting will be held in London.

Trustee Vacancies: The following are a list of the vacancies for January 2022.

- Regional Trustee, Ireland North (three-year term)
- Regional Trustee, Eire (two-year term).
- Regional Trustee, England West & South Wales (three-year term).
- Regional Trustee, England North & North Wales (two-year term).
- Regional Trustee, England South & East (one-year term).
- Chairman, Public Information Committee (two-year term).
- Treasurer (two-year term).
- Chairman, Executive Committee (three-year term).

The closing date for receipt of applications at GSO for all the above is 14th May 2021.

Yours in fellowship



Nuala Carroll
Chairman
General Service Board